



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian**  
**Northern District of New York**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 17, 2010

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that RUBEN S. MINJARES was found guilty Friday afternoon following a three-day jury trial before United States District Judge Glenn T. Suddaby in Syracuse of commercial alien smuggling.

MINJARES, age 57, of Ridgewood, New York, was found guilty on all charges: one count of aiding and abetting the bringing of aliens to the United States for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain; one count of aiding and abetting the smuggling of an illegal alien into the United States and failure to take the alien to a port of entry for inspection; and one count of transporting or attempting to transport an illegal alien within the United States. Sentencing was set for December 16, 2010, before Judge Suddaby in Syracuse, at which time the defendant will face a total sentence of up to 30 years imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum sentence of three (3) years imprisonment, fines of up to \$750,000, or both. The Court revoked MINJARES' release status and ordered him into the custody of the United States Marshal pending sentencing.

MINJARES participated in a commercial smuggling organization that transported illegal aliens from Montreal to the New York City area, utilizing a remote area to cross the border near Fort Covington, in the State and Northern District of New York. On August 22, 2009, a concerned citizen from the area alerted the United States Border Patrol, Burke Station, to suspicious activity, which resulted in a manhunt that ultimately led to the discovery of illegal aliens and defendant MINJARES in position to drive at least one of the aliens to the New York City area.

The indictment and prosecution of MINJARES is an example of the importance of citizens living along the border helping to provide information to law enforcement about possible illegal activity in the area. The case was investigated by the United States Border Patrol and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman of the Plattsburgh Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman, Plattsburgh, 518-314-7800.